

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants	: Shuichi HIRATA et al.	Confirmation No.:	3667
Appln. No.	: 10/596,218	Examiner:	Not Yet Assigned
Filed	: June 5, 2006	Group Art Unit:	Not Yet Assigned
For	: METHOD OF CONTROLLING CONTACT LOAD IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENT MOUNTING APPARATUS		

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Prior to an examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the claims, and Abstract as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.  
**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.  
**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.